

Insurance and Domestic Violence I voted YES to require insurance companies to pay on insurance policy claims when a person’s loss of property is a result of domestic violence. It is unjust that a victim of domestic violence should suffer even more by losing a home or other possessions because of the abuse.

Preventing Unintended Pregnancies A bill I introduced would have required health insurers to provide coverage for contraceptives. Paying now for pregnancy prevention is far less expensive than paying later for medically difficult pregnancies, disrupted lives, and, all too often, abortion. Unfortunately, the bill was not voted on this year. I will reintroduce the same bill next year.

Drug-Affected Babies I introduced and voted YES on a bill that calls upon the state to offer drug treatment for drug-using mothers who give birth to drug-affected babies. If, after multiple births, the mothers fail to get treatment, the state can require treatment. The state also can remove the children from the home and place them in a safer, healthier environment. Unfortunately, Gov. Locke vetoed the bill. I will reintroduce it next year.



Join me at our Town Meetings

Transportation:
Wednesday, May 6
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Kent City Hall,
220 Fourth Ave. S.
Kent

Education:
Saturday, May 9
10 a.m. to noon
Des Moines Library,
21620 11th Ave. S.
Des Moines

If you would like me to meet with a group that you belong to, please let me know. Listening is an important part of my job. Call (360) 786-7664.



Our State Capitol

Senator
**Julia
Patterson**



405 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40482
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

1998 Legislative
Voting Summary

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**Senator
Julia
Patterson**



405 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40482
Olympia, WA 98504-0482

Dear Neighbor,

The 1998 legislative session is over. As your state senator, I promised that I would send you a yearly summary of how I voted on state issues. I'm keeping my promise.

My fifth annual voting summary shows where I stood on issues that people most often ask me about. If you would like to hear about other issues, please let me know. I'll respond promptly because I respect your right to know how I'm representing you.

I hope you'll also call to share your thoughts about future issues or if there is any other way I can help you.

You can always get a message to me quickly by calling my Olympia office directly at (360) 786-7664 or by calling the toll-free Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

Sincerely,

Julia Patterson
State Senator
33rd District

Committees:

- Government Operations (Ranking Member)
- Higher Education
- Transportation

1998 Voting Record - Senator Julia Patterson

Drunken Driving I voted YES to toughening our laws on drunk drivers as a way to reduce the carnage on our highways. At the same time, I felt very strongly that just passing tough laws isn't enough — we need to make sure that we put enough money behind those laws to make them work. That means making sure the state picks up the tab and that our cities and counties aren't forced to spend their already limited resources to fight a battle that belongs to us all.

Specific ways we cracked down:

- We lowered the legal blood-alcohol limit from .10 percent to .08 percent.
- We called for electronic home monitoring in addition to jail sentences.
- We called for a seven-year license suspension for people with three or more DUI offenses on their record.
- We required ignition interlocks for offenders arrested with blood-alcohol levels of .15 or greater. An ignition interlock is a device that will prevent a car from starting if the driver's breath sample contains any alcohol.
- We lengthened from five to seven years the amount of time a previous DUI conviction can be considered when a person is sentenced for a new DUI offense.

Transportation I voted NO on the \$2.4 billion transportation funding scheme. This plan would provide only enough money for five year's worth of transportation projects but would take 25 years to repay. In the end, we would spend about \$3 billion in interest alone. Not only would the plan plunge us into the deepest level of debt in the state's history, but it could also endanger education funding. We will be legally obligated to pay the interest on those bonds before we pay for anything else. Programs paid for out of the general fund, such as education, will then be subject to cuts if revenues drop because the economy slows.

License Tab Increase I voted NO on a bill that would allow counties to raise the yearly license tab fee by up to \$15 a year for small trucks. While majority lawmakers claimed they want to cut license tab fees for Washington residents, they snuck this increase into a bill to fund a bridge in southwest Washington. If they were truly serious about tax cuts, the cuts would apply to all residents, not just some of them. They can't have it both ways.

Fertilizer I voted NO. The bill simply didn't go far enough. This legislation attempted to limit the use of toxic substances as ingredients in the fertilizers used to grow our food. Unfortunately, the bill that was before us still allowed too many toxic substances, such as dioxins and heavy metals, to remain in fertilizers. We need a stronger bill to get my vote.

Salmon Recovery I voted YES to spend \$35 million on salmon recovery efforts. The federal government is likely to list the Puget Sound chi-

nook salmon for protection under the Endangered Species Act next year. It is necessary for the state to take steps now to rebuild this treasured natural resource, otherwise the federal government will do it for us. The bill created a framework to bring together the fish, timber and agricultural industries, Indian tribes, and the local environmental community to develop salmon recovery plans, and establish a special Salmon Recovery Office to report to the governor.

C.J.'s Bill I voted YES to this common-sense bill named after C.J. Norton, a 3-year-old boy who was struck and killed by a diaper service delivery truck backing out of his driveway in 1993. This law requires that commercial delivery trucks now be equipped with rear cross-view mirrors, which will allow drivers to see what is behind them. Maybe it will save some lives.

Prepaid College Tuition I voted YES on this bill which provides the first \$1.4 million needed to establish this innovative program, which allows parents and others buy college tuition "units" at roughly today's prices to pay for a college education sometime in the future. The program gets underway late this summer. For more information, call (360) 753-7811 or (360) 753-7828.

State Budget I voted NO on the supplemental budget, which once again failed to provide funding for the reduction of class sizes for our students. The state of Washington ranks an embarrassing fourth from the bottom nationally in class size. The state has a billion-dollar revenue surplus, yet budget writers still couldn't find the money to make our children's classes smaller. Further, the Senate didn't see fit to approve my amendment that would have required a reduction in class size. Given those facts, I could not support a budget that doesn't help us meet our educational responsibilities to our children.

Reading I voted YES on a bill that provides grant money to schools who voluntarily choose to train teachers in using phonics in their reading instruction curriculum. This controversial bill had too many good aspects to be ignored. For instance, \$9 million was provided for teacher training and \$8 million was provided to help train tutors to volunteer in our public schools.

Freight Mobility I voted YES on a bill that will encourage public/private partnerships in the construction of transportation projects that are of strategic importance to the state. This bill recognizes that both the state and private industry benefit when we tackle common problems together. We all know that our economy will suffer if we can't get goods to and from market. We also know how frustrating it is to spend our valuable time stuck in traffic. This bill provides the framework to address both problems.